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Teaming up to solve problems pays dividends

Clara Bailey Ackerman, Editor, Extension Service Review

■ What happens to a community which ranked highest in the State community-improvement contests of 25 years ago?

A day and a half in Berlin Community, W. Va., did not answer all the questions but it did show that the habit of working together and thinking community-wise has helped.

One of the first things to meet the eye in Berlin is the white board erected at the cross roads by the WCTU listing the names of the 75 young men who fought for their country in the past world war.

E. D. Darnell, for many years president of the community organization and a leader in all community activities, read through the list pointing out the old family names which were the same as those who fought the Indians back in Colonial Days. Folks in the valley seem to stay put.

"Only two were killed," said Mr. Darnell. "See the second name on the list. He was one. He worked for me and I could have had him deferred. He was all the help I had and I was entitled to two helpers. But, I being on the draft board and he wanting to go so badly, I couldn't do it. We miss him."

A question as to whether the returned veterans offered problems seemed to surprise him. "No; we need young men here," he said. His one worry was that too few had returned to farms. They were practically all back in the community, except about 15 who were studying on GI money, but the farm labor situation was still acute. As he phrased it, "A man can't plan any more than he can do himself nowadays."

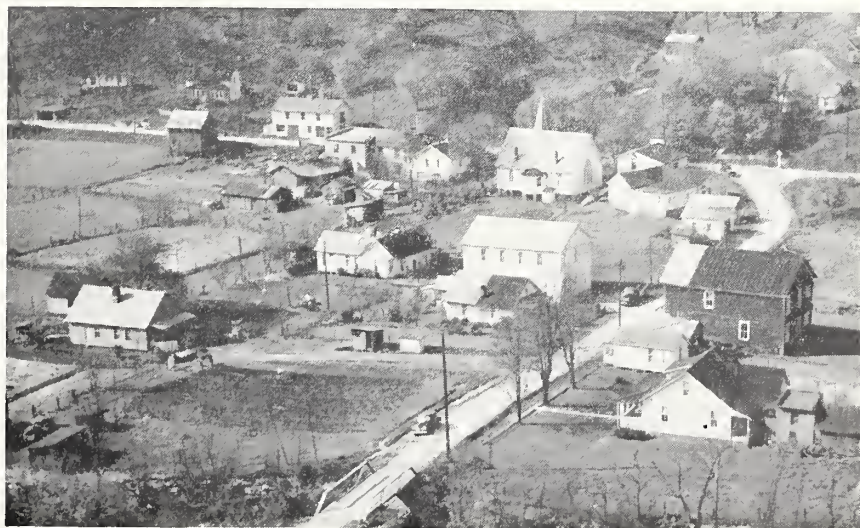
The Methodist Church is the center of town activities. Practically all of

the 140 families are represented there. After the war, members sensed a disillusionment because of war experiences and there was a falling off in church attendance. The leaders got together and planned a visit to every

family in the community. Church attendance picked up and the strongest organization in town today is the Church Youth Fellowship.

The president of the home demon-
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Berlin is a community at a West Virginia cross roads in the mountain valley of Hackers Creek. About 25 years ago they were tops in the State community improvement contests of that day. Berlin became community conscious when the State extension service under the leadership of the late Nat Frame, then director of extension, and A. H. Rapping, sociologist on the staff, initiated a program to help communities organize to meet their own problems and rate their effectiveness. The president of the community organization for many years was E. D. Darnell (at right), shown comparing notes with storekeeper H. C. Skidmore.



We build on a good foundation

JOHN A. HANNAH, President, Michigan State College

A key job of significance to future extension development is the chairmanship of the joint committee of the Land-Grant College Association and the United States Department of Agriculture. This is the group which made a thorough study of the present cooperative extension program and recently made recommendations for strengthening the Service. This job was held by one of the younger college presidents, one who has rapidly come to the front as an expert on matters relating to the land-grant colleges and their function in American life. Because of his respect for the ideas and plans of the founding fathers he has consented to set down for extension workers some of the facts which seem to him important to remember. President Hannah graduated from Michigan State College in 1923 and has traveled extensively both in this country and in Europe. He has visited practically all of the land-grant colleges and served as extension poultry specialist and secretary of the Michigan State Board of Agriculture, the governing body of the college, before becoming president.



■ The land-grant colleges and universities of our Nation are products of democracy.

They were founded on the belief that the benefits of higher education should be available to all classes of our citizens, not just the favored few.

Nearly 100 years ago a group of Michigan farmers concluded that college training should not be for professional people and the idle rich alone and petitioned the State Legislature to establish a college to teach agriculture and related arts. Within a few years—in 1855—the necessary legislation was passed, and Michigan Agricultural College was established, the first in the world to teach agriculture as a science.

It had a hard struggle to survive the first few years, but the idea it represented aroused support and enthusiasm throughout the Nation. Senator Bingham of Michigan teamed with Senator Morrill of Vermont in sponsoring the act to establish the land-grant colleges and universities. In 1862 this bill was passed and signed by President Lincoln.

Those of us from Michigan take special pride in the part that from the rude beginning in the woods of central Michigan stemmed the idea that produced the great land-grant college system of today.

That year of 1862 is memorable, too, for the reason that it brought the Department of Agriculture into being by authorization of our Federal Congress.

Since their simultaneous beginning, the land-grant colleges and the United States Department of Agriculture have worked together on similar problems with admirable cooperation. Passage of the Hatch Act in 1887 made possible cooperative agricultural research by these colleges and the Department of Agriculture. Then, in 1914, the Smith-Lever Act created the Cooperative Extension Service of the Land-Grant Colleges and Universities and the United States Department of Agriculture. Under this act, the land-grant colleges were designated to carry on the extension and teaching programs among the farmers and homemakers of the Nation.

The land-grant college has three functions. The first is to provide the best possible class room and laboratory teaching facilities for the young men and women in resident attendance. The second function of the land-grant colleges is to carry on an extensive program of research. The magnificent record of the American farmer in the recent war would not have been possible without the results of research at Federal and college experiment stations. The third function is to operate the Cooperative Extension Service, without which the discoveries of our research laboratories would be ineffective.

I have been active in or associated with extension work for many years, but I have lost none of my enthusiasm for the philosophy which brought it into being and motivates it today. In

fact, my enthusiasm has increased as I have watched the gradual evolution of the idea that extension is not something standing alone but a part of a great educational system.

The land-grant colleges are about to enter a new era of greatly expanded usefulness, especially in our cooperative extension programs. We have always had the philosophy that the farmers and their families who raise the crops and the livestock are more important than the crops and livestock themselves. Improvement of farm income levels is important to the economic stability, which is essential to a sound nation, but we must always put people before things in all that we do.

Home Phase Strengthened

I am gratified, too, that the trend is to emphasize the home phase. I am convinced that the land-grant colleges will become more and more concerned with the social and economic factors of the farm and home. Certainly the work of the 4-H Club agent, who guides and counsels the young farm people in projects of absorbing interest and great potential returns, is helping us to build a strong economy and a better America through better citizenship.

Our land-grant colleges and universities have a grave responsibility in this modern age. Theirs is a responsibility to train leaders in almost every field of human endeavor. To a great

degree the future of our State and our Nation rests with the leaders of tomorrow who are being trained by our universities and colleges. The land-grant colleges and universities were dedicated to the training of the common people. This dedication carries with it the responsibility for providing honest leadership for the best interests of all of us, divorced from all selfish motives and all political influence of any nature.

The land-grant colleges and universities, through their many services, must lead the march back to the fundamentals of human relationships.

Youth establish community center

The young people in the Boynton community in Catoosa County, Ga., led by the Boynton 4-H Club, are building for the future. A community playground built and equipped by the young people in the community was one indication.

The new playground was dedicated with proper ceremonies. More than 200 of the community's 3 to 400 people were there to join in the singing and games.

This project is the latest in a series of outstanding ones sponsored by the Boynton community 4-H Club, W. E. Brookshire, county agent, reports. The club members won an award last year in the 4-H community improvement project sponsored by an Atlanta newspaper.

With the prize they received, the 4-H members went to work to develop a community center that would serve all of the people in the community. With the aid of Boy Scouts, they cleared a tract of ground adjacent to the Methodist parsonage which was owned by the church. Club members constructed outdoor ovens, installed playground equipment, and lighted the area so it could be used at night.

Both the Baptist and Methodist churches in the community cooperated with the 4-H'ers in furnishing some of the equipment. The Scouts helped with the construction of some of the ovens, and the Catoosa County Older Rural Youth Club and the Parent-Teachers Association also helped.

City women set up work center

■ Because they believe "where there's a will, there's a way," and because they gladly put their shoulders to the wheel, women in the city of Syracuse, N. Y., have fine new quarters for home demonstration work in the largest Home Bureau center in New York State.

When rent was raised nearly 50 percent on their former cramped offices last winter, members agreed with Hazel Reed, home demonstration agent, that something should be done. They searched the city and discovered that the OPA was about to vacate the whole second floor of a musty old building in a central part of the city. Once it had housed the Syracuse Board of Education.

A few weeks of adroit dickering with city fathers and they had a promise. The dingy nine-room suite would be rehabilitated with city funds, in return for which the Home Bureau would rent from the city and furnish the rooms themselves.

Months of intensive activity followed. Extension specialists from Cornell were consulted for color schemes and convenient cupboard suggestions. City workmen sanded decades of dirt from the floors and, under careful direction, painted the dismal walls and woodwork two shades of pleasant green.

Every home demonstration unit in the city gave money toward furnishings, and nearly every member contributed her share of carpentry and needlework to fashion drapes and slip covers and to construct bookcases, shelves, and adequate cupboard space.

The grand opening included 4 days of open house. It was initiated with a preview by city councilmen, county supervisors, the mayor, and their ladies.

The attractive rooms glistened with freshness. Five of them were devoted to exhibits of home demonstration work. Flowers from members and interested florists added to the festivity of the occasion. Punch and cookies were served near the colorful exhibit of gift wrapping and home-made decorations.

Printed signs explained the process and money-saving value of such proj-

ects as glove making, children's clothes, refinishing and stenciling antique chairs, and cooking low-cost meats. On display was a dress which had won a \$50 prize for its original design and a bridal gown and bridesmaid's dresses made by a member for her daughter, who had learned to sew through the home demonstration project.

From legends on signs, visitors learned that membership had increased from 300 in 1931 to 1,800 in 1946, and about 2,000 taking an active part now.

"I wouldn't have believed those old rooms could be so transformed," the mayor remarked as he sipped his punch. "It just goes to show what a bunch of women can do when they make up their minds."

County supervisors and their wives were equally impressed. "A wonderful organization. Every woman should belong," one supervisor remarked.

These comments made members of the executive board feel very happy. Because they won't rest on their laurels they have plans for the future, among them a model demonstration kitchen. And the good will of the county supervisors can make those plans come true.

■ ELISE LAFFITTE, home demonstration agent, Gadsden County, Fla., is making a scrapbook of her 22 years in home demonstration work. She has a complete file of all 4-H Club members and home demonstration members during that time and many other interesting facts about the work and its effect on rural people in the county.

■ E. H. DAVIS, Georgia's extension engineer, a specialist in irrigation, whose work was written up in the REVIEW of November 1947, supervised the filming of two ingenious sprinkler irrigation systems by RKO Pathe studios. This is the second picture in the series "Its News Because It's New," dealing with novel and ingenious farming methods.

Reflections in the mirror

FRED S. SLOAN, State Program Leader, North Carolina Agricultural Extension Service

■ "Why?" ruminated Tom Jones reflectively. And, unable to arrive at a satisfactory answer, shrugged, buzzed his secretary, and began screening his files and his mind for information with which to complete the monthly county agent report. He regarded the thick report as a fetish of the State office, and surely he grudged the time it would take to fill in the numerous blanks—time that could be devoted to more constructive work, Tom thought.

Something of this sort may have happened in North Carolina about 2 years ago but not since we got down to brass tacks. We dissected the dreaded report form, bared its reasons for existence, and explained to the agents its functions—functions that pulsated with the life of program planning, personnel administration, and extension organization.

"Mirror, Mirror, on the Wall"

Nearly 2 years ago we began to study the reflection of ourselves through the media of reports to see what we were doing and how we were doing it. As a starting point, we selected the reports from county agents. The image we saw was neither clear nor complete. It was easy to discover some of the problems, but the causes were indistinct. The longer we looked, the more we found, however—and we found that we had taken too much for granted.

The report forms being used did not present a true picture. It was evident that the agents looked upon reports as something required rather than a useful tool. The reasons for reports had never been fully or satisfactorily explained, nor had the purposes they were designed to serve or the use that was made of them been explained.

Little effort had been made to obtain uniformity in interpretation of extension terms and definitions and in the methods of reporting. There seemed to be more concern in getting the reports in than in finding practical ways to use them. There was

also little evidence that much use had been made of the information in administrative and supervisory work.

These and other findings prompted the question of "Why have reports?" and led to the development of a philosophy that unless reports could be justified by the actual use made of them, then they should be revised or discontinued.

Return on Investment

We recognized that a lot of time was spent in preparing reports, and we wanted to find a way of obtaining a reasonable return for this investment. With this in mind, a careful study was made of each report form to determine: (a) why it was needed, (b) the purposes it was designed to serve, (c) how well it was serving these purposes, and (d) what changes or adjustments were needed to make it more valuable to all concerned.

After reporting the findings of the study to the director and other administrative personnel, it was decided that the county agents' monthly reports should either be discontinued or the report form revised. It was felt, though, that some type of monthly report was needed by both the agents and the State staff to serve as a means of analyzing the distribution of time and methods employed, as well as a guide in evaluating accomplishments and making adjustments in plans and procedures from month to month.

Keeping in mind that a report should be of most or equal value to the persons making it, we arranged to meet with the agents to get their ideas and suggestions for a revision of the monthly report form. Prior to the meetings a preliminary form was developed as a basis for discussion,

and we were prepared to explain why the report was desired, the purposes it should and could serve, and the way the information could be analyzed and used by the agents, district agents, and specialists.

Agents Plan Report Form

Realizing that the agents generally felt the primary reason for making reports was because they "were required," the whole subject of reports was discussed at these meetings. Each report, including the annual statistical, was discussed from the standpoint of the purposes it was designed to serve, how it should be prepared, and the way in which the agents, district agents, and others could use the information. Official extension terms and definitions were also taken up in an effort to obtain more uniformity in reporting, so that more comparable analyses and studies could be made. Results of the meetings were gratifying; the agents appreciated being asked what kind of reports they needed and had received an explanation of the actual and potential use of reports in the State office.

A new monthly report form, incorporating most of the changes suggested by the agents, emerged and was put into use on December 1, 1946, with the definite understanding that it would be used for 1 year. At the end of that time, the agents would be given another opportunity to make additional suggestions for further improvement. Beginning with December, and at the end of each month thereafter, a summary by extension districts, showing the work reported for each county was prepared at the State office and sent to the agents and their assistants.

A similar summary was prepared by lines of work, such as agronomy or dairying, for the specialists. Later in the year an analysis of certain items and activities was prepared for each county, showing by months what had been reported for both adult and 4-H Club work from December through September. Included in the analysis were such items as number and kind of 4-H projects or adult result demonstrations, visits to them, total visits by lines of work, the number and kinds of meetings and their attendance, number of office calls,

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Labor saving laboratory

■ Taking the drudgery out of wash-and-iron days is of primary concern to rural and urban homemakers in Arkansas, as it must be to women all over the world who are faced with the necessity of removing spots from junior's rompers, starching dad's shirts, and supplying clean, fresh linens for the home. Arkansas Extension, through its corps of home agents, is making progress in easing the burden of "sudsday." From the newly established laundry laboratory in the university comes information on the proper selection, care, and use of laundry supplies and equipment that the home agents take to rural women to make their task lighter and easier.

A Goliath Step

The laundry equipment laboratory was set up by the home economics department of the university to fill the needs of both the home economics department and extension workers who were acutely vocal in their enthusiastic requests for the type of training the laboratory could and does offer. Here the multiplicity of all types of washing machines, irons, dryers, and other equipment affords agents and students an opportunity to observe first-hand, operate, and evaluate the effectiveness of laundry equipment under varying conditions.

No one realizes better than Elizabeth Williams, extension home management specialist, that the establishment of the laboratory is only one step forward in the study of this type of labor-saving household equipment, but it is a Goliath step that holds the promise of paying ever-increasing dividends. In the short time the labo-

Arkansas home demonstration agents use the new laundry laboratory. From left to right they are: Mrs. Beatrice Bryson, North Sebastian County; Cleda Oldham, Clark County; Mrs. Jessie Mae Hill, Phillips County; Mrs. Selma Wooley, Pulaski County; Margaret Campbell, Lee County; and Eloise Williams, Franklin County. Seated at the ironer is Miss Ritchie Smead, home economist, Arkansas Power and Light Company, who helped with the instruction.



ratory has been founded it has had two major effects on extension workers. It has made them aware of the need for study of laundry equipment, and the unlimited benefits that can be derived in terms of shortening the work day for homemakers.

"Doing Is Learning"

"Doing Is Learning" was never more aptly illustrated than it was at the Extension In-Service Training Conference held at the University of Arkansas, June 14 to 19. Eighty-four home demonstration agents attending the conference took part in a short course in laundry equipment. Divided into workshop and lecture periods, the course dealt with subject matter and

the practical use of laundry equipment. Charts, movies, and other visual aids were used in the lecture periods to forcefully present the proper selection, use, care, and arrangement of equipment and supplies, including detergents. But the actual experience each person had in using the equipment assembled in the laboratory was the most valuable part of the week's training. The laboratory was open for the workshop period from 8 in the morning until 5 in the afternoon, except during class periods and lunch hours, and agents were urged to spend as much time as possible there. A home economist, especially trained, was on duty all of the time to help and explain the features of the different equipment.

Teaming up to solve problems pays dividends

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stration club who is also the storekeeper's wife, outlined some of the achievements including school hot lunches, trees in the school yard, curtains for the school auditorium, roses in the members' yards, and most recently an electric refrigerator for the school. She spoke proudly of donations to the Red Cross, the March of Dimes, Cancer Control, and others.

We found the lodge hall with its large recreation room and modern kitchen still serving all the community organizations. Every week an oyster supper, a 4-H Club rally, a social

evening of some sort was scheduled.

All in all, we found Berlin conscious of a changing world. During the last 25 years they have seen their steep hillsides, once plowed to crops, change to green pasture and new forests. The orchards which used to supply apples for this country and Europe are gone. Working together they have made the adjustments. They sent their boys to war and took them back again. They see much in the future to worry about. But they have the confidence which comes from the knowledge that they know how to work together.



4-H achievements merit celebration

National 4-H Achievement Week To Mark High Attainment

■ The 4-H Club record for 1948 is rolling up into a real milestone. Enrollment is the highest on record, totaling 1,769,911. Equally commendable, perhaps more so, is the record in completion of projects, with the high percentage for this, 76 percent of all enrolled, making another high mark for this important character-building feature of 4-H work. And when the calendar is turned for the next 4-H Club year, the ranks of adults will include more than 14,000,000 who have participated in 4-H activities in their youth.

Throughout the year, the theme, "Creating better homes today for a more responsible citizenship tomorrow" was featured at all local, State and national events. It served to high light the underlying philosophy of 4-H Club work, for the program is centered in the home and on the home farm.

Production Tops the Record

4-H members produced and conserved more food than in any previous year, thereby making more available for their own families, for other families in this country, and for those in need in other countries. Eighty thousand acres of garden products were produced in addition to the one-half million acres of food crops. 4-H members raised 800,000 head of livestock and 8,000,000 head of poultry. This contribution to the families' food supply was well spread over the entire year through the food conservation work of the club members. They canned more than 18,000,000 quarts of fruits, vegetables, and meats; they brined 180,000 gallons of food; they dried or cured 2,000,000 pounds of food; and stored or froze nearly 16,000,000 pounds.

Club members' interest in home improvement has pushed the records in that line above all previous records. They improved more than 100,000 rooms in their homes, landscaped 115,000 home surroundings, and made

more than 300,000 articles which added comfort and attractiveness to their own homes and communities.

The enrollment in 4-H clothing work surpassed that of any other club project. In all, they made or remodeled 2,000,000 garments, many of them made inventories of their wardrobes and based their clothing activities on their needs and the cash available. More than 250,000 4-H girls kept personal accounts.

More than 21,000 club members cared for young children during 1948, developing skills in the proper and happy handling of little children and gaining an understanding of some of the fundamental principles of growth and development.

4-H Club members were equally active in their communities. Nearly a half-million members reported removing fire and accident hazards. A large number assisted in the recreational activities of the community, often taking the leadership. In addition, nearly 39,000 clubs, with an average attendance of 20 members, engaged in other community activities, such as improving public grounds, conducting local fairs, building community play grounds, and helping neighbors faced with emergencies with their farming and home work.

Large numbers of 4-H members improved their own health and cooperated in improving health conditions in their own homes and communities. More than 600,000 carried on special health activities; more than 200,000 had periodic health examinations.

International Interests

Interest in measures to help those in distress abroad continued high in 4-H Clubs throughout the year. Reports indicate that gifts totaling well over \$300,000 were contributed. In all such work 4-H members cooperated closely with local relief agencies. Through their food production, food conservation, generous gifts and

friendly letters they helped to establish ties of friendship with families of many countries.

In addition, an International Farm Youth Exchange project proved very successful. Twenty-three 4-H members spent several months living in the farm homes of England, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, The Netherlands, France, and Italy. These visits are being followed by similar groups of young people from abroad coming to the United States and living in the farm homes of 4-H members here. The project was undertaken because it was felt that such an exchange would do much to help develop an interest in the attitudes, talents, and cultural patterns of the people of the countries visited and a better understanding of their problems and achievements.

During this year there has been an increased endeavor to bring more older 4-H members into situations of planning and leadership on the basis that if a youth can do the job why should an adult withhold that opportunity? It is notable, that of the number of rural youth enrolled in the 4-H Clubs, 47,000 served as local volunteer leaders for groups of younger members.

The county extension agents throughout the country devoted over 840,000 days to work with the 4-H Clubs in their counties. They held nearly 47,000 meetings for the training of the 203,000 local volunteer leaders, in addition to the large number of meetings held by these volunteers. As the 4-H Club program has become more varied to meet the needs and interests of the growing number of young people who seek to enroll, the load of the county extension agents has become correspondingly heavier. The enlistment and training of local volunteer leaders in greater numbers and the development of leadership within the clubs themselves have solved this problem in an increasing number of counties. The national system of recognition awards for volunteer 4-H leaders is found to be stimulating. In many areas county and State local leaders' associations or councils proved useful. Throughout the country an increasing number of local volunteer leaders participated in State and national events.

Rural-urban dairyland festival

MARION K. STOCKER

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■ When farm and city folk pool their efforts, something worthwhile usually happens.

In 1940, residents of rural Jefferson County, N. Y., and Watertown, the county seat, put their heads together to promote the section's chief industry—dairying. A big three-county Dairyland Festival was the result.

This year the festival was held for the fourth time, June 14–19, under the sponsorship of the Farm and Home Bureau and 4-H Club Association of Jefferson County and the senior and junior chambers of commerce of Watertown. Watertown (population of about 35,000), is the milkshed for 3 northern New York State counties—Lewis, St. Lawrence, and Jefferson; and all 3 counties take part in the annual program.

In 1940, the festival did little more than choose and crown a dairyland queen, through the judges' eyes the most beautiful girl, aged 16 to 18, in the three-county area.

The festival queen and her two attendants, all former 4-H Club members, opened the festival milking contest, which was won by a farmer-school teacher who milked 15.4 pounds in 3 minutes.

Then the event was dropped until after the war. Its revival in 1946 brought an expanded program to include a milking contest for 4-H Club youngsters as well as one for older men and women, a sale of purebred Holstein cattle, a baby contest, and a parade.

This year, interest in the festival had grown so much that 40,000 persons flocked to Watertown to see the lovely queen and the 3-mile-long parade. Scores competed in the milking contest, won by a farmer-school teacher who milked 15.4 pounds in 3 minutes. Sixty-one units of registered Holstein cattle were sold to 43 purchasers for a total of \$23,420.

The 1948 festival had a new slogan: Dairying our No. 1 industry; Babies our No. 1 crop. To prove that the No. 1 crop was of special quality, members of the Jefferson County Home Bureau and the Watertown Recreation Department cooperated in staging a baby contest on the final

day of the festival. More than 350 youngsters, from 12 months to 4 years, converged at the armory, convoyed by at least 1,000 mothers, aunts, and grandmothers.

The day was topped off by a home demonstration achievement program with displays of handiwork and speakers who praised the homemakers' part in building up civic pride and friendship between rural and city folk, and in pushing their community toward wholesome prosperity.

Thus Jefferson County and its "North Country" neighbors are putting themselves on the map through a project that is fun for all and profitable for all.

■ ROSCOE R. WELCH, dairy extension specialist in Pennsylvania retired on June 30 last. Born in a log house on his father's farm in the piney woods of Covington County, Miss., he worked his way through the Mississippi A. & M. College by milking cows. In 1908 he began his extension career in his home State with the United States Dairy Division. Later he worked at Clemson College, S. C., and the United States Dairy Division Experimental Farm, Beltsville, Md. In July 1913 he took charge of the Dairy Division project in community development at Algona, Iowa. In 1916 this project was transferred to Grove City, Pa. He aided in improving purebred dairy cattle, forming 4-H Clubs, cow-testing associations, bull associations, and breed associations, organizing for tuberculin testing, and other cooperative and community enterprises.

He joined the Pennsylvania extension staff as dairy specialist in 1919 and in 1921 returned to Grove City as employee of the newly organized community dairy development association. Returning to the State Extension Service in 1926 he was active in 4-H dairy club work and in charge of bull association work. He helped to organize area testing for tuberculosis and brucellosis and cooperated in the first artificial breeding cooperatives in the State. Gardening was Mr. Welch's hobby and he intends to devote some time to that, but just at first he is catching up on his fishing and reading.



Log checks the charts

F. L. BALLARD, Associate Extension Director, Oregon

The development of agriculture in Oregon checks the validity of plans made 25 years ago. In the last issue of the *Review*, Director Ballard described a planning conference of the early twenties and told how well its recommendations checked with the facts as they came along in dairying. Here he discusses the recommendations and the results in a number of other agricultural situations.

■ Oregon's Extension Service has for a long time been working on programs worked out by the farm men and women, based upon factual material gleaned from many sources. These farm folks have consulted State and Federal agencies; representatives of distributive organizations, including transportation; and many other sources, as well as members of the Extension Service and the agricultural college.

How sound have our recommendations been? Have they been followed? Have events and situations followed along as we thought they would? It was with some of these questions in mind that we made a study of the present situation as revealed by the 1945 census, comparing it with the figures of the 1920 census and the economic planning conference of 1923.

Startling Changes in Farming Pattern

The first thing which struck us in examining the official figures was startling change in the last quarter century. Some of the program decided upon by the farmers of 25 years ago indicated that many of these changes had been along the lines charted at the planning conference. About 400 farmers took part in the State conference. They met to study the reports and conclusions of a number of committees which had been meeting for some time, assembling factual material on various commodities and economic factors affecting them. At that time the question of markets for Oregon farm production was assuming increasing proportions and new angles, so marketing, as well as production, was considered.

The small-seed industry studied by one committee agreed that "an industry amounting to a million dollars a

year can be developed in western Oregon from the sale of such seeds as ryegrass, orchard grass, redbud, and bentgrass." The facts are that now after 25 years these enterprises, if we are to include the legume seeds, reach around 20 million dollars each year; and several individual seed crops alone exceed in annual returns the objectives pointed out by the committee. When the attention of the farmers of the State was directed toward small seed, they brought into consideration many seeds not enumerated by the committee. Among these, two outstanding are Chewings fescue and Ladino clover.

Seed Acreage Increases 200 Fold

All of these grass and legume seeds together have increased in annual acreage from about 2,000 to more than 400,000 in 25 years, according to unofficial estimates. No completely accurate estimate of seed acreage can be obtained from the census figures because they do not itemize all of the many seed crops grown within the State.

A committee on horticulture at that meeting in 1923 recommended elimination of noncommercial acreages of apple orchards and low-yielding orchards, aiming toward a reduction of 25 percent. It recommended no increase in well-maintained commercial orchards because the State was in competition in apple production with about 40 other States and was far removed from the markets which at that time were far eastern cities and abroad, mainly in England and Germany.

Examination now reveals that this reduction apparently was a much sounder recommendation than was realized at the time it was made. The actual acreage reduction was 77 per-

cent, but reduction in production was only 48 percent.

It was pointed out at the same time by this same committee that pears met less competition than apples and that certain sections of the State produced a quality that seemed unexcelled. Recommendations were made for a gradual increase in acreage of pears. Examination of this situation as of the current time discloses that this committee also was on sound ground. Pear acreage has increased 40 percent in the 25-year period.

This committee also pointed out that much of the European market for dried prunes recently had been lost and that the then number of prune trees on the Pacific coast would much more than supply any reasonably prospective markets. The hazard of additional prune plantings was brought out.

Again examining the present situation, there has been almost no planting of new prune orchards within the 25 years, and acreage has been reduced 29 percent, thus placing this crop more nearly in line with prospective market demands. Gradual increase in sweet cherries was recommended by this committee. That acreage has increased 63 percent.

Klamath Develops Potato Acreage

A long list of similar recommendations is equally interesting when considered in the light of the State's current production pattern. Within a year after this State-wide meeting, farmers in 28 counties held similar meetings within their county. The objective here was to determine the extent to which the county in question did already, or should, fit into the over-all program recommended for the State. These county studies developed a good many new points which had not been included by the State-wide committees. One that is outstanding was in Klamath County where it was recommended that there was great need for an additional cash crop. At that time the county was a very heavy producer of alfalfa, but farmers experienced a need for an additional cash crop. Potatoes offered possibilities. A carload of certified seed was purchased the following spring. In 1945, 12,500 carloads of potatoes were shipped from Klamath County and that part of the Klamath

irrigation project crossing the State line into California.

That same year the farmers in Crook and Deschutes Counties where potato growing was already established urged wide expansion. The idea was that California offered a promising market for this production. This has proved to be the case, and the acreage of potatoes harvested in Oregon in 1945 was 37 percent greater than in 1920. This increase and more occurred in the three central Oregon counties. Within this period potatoes produced in the Willamette Valley, except for seed for the California market, had declined markedly.

In considering the poultry situation at that time, farmers in several counties urged expansion in turkey production. The result of that decision has been an increase in turkey num-

bers of 517 percent since 1929 to 3,105,000 head in 1945.

All in all, it seems fair to believe that this early-day organized program making, which has been followed up during the entire 25-year period, has had far greater effect upon shaping the production pattern of the State than was ever anticipated by those people who participated in these early meetings. Those meetings giving consideration to the economic aspects of Oregon agriculture were a new approach. Up to that time most farm meetings had been devoted to production methods, with too little thought to the place in the economic picture of the products under consideration. It would seem that this new line of thinking developed in that far-away time has paid tremendous profits to all of the people of the State.

Curtain idea spreads

Curtains of monks cloth graced the new community hospital in Cortez, Colo., and in addition the nursery boasted gleaming white sateen curtains, all through the good will and hard work of home demonstration club women. Women from the nearby town of Mancos saw, were pleased, and went home to make new draperies for the windows of the local hotel which had been partially burned. The Baptist Church soon had new curtains and the Episcopal Church guild, new draperies for the recreation hall. The visiting home demonstration group from Montezuma County also liked the hospital curtains and went home to buy material to curtain the Grange hall windows in their community.

Saipan in the news again

■ Fifty-five teen-age boys on Saipan have organized a 4-H Club. This is the first 4-H Club in the Trust Territory of the Pacific. It is under the supervision of Ignacio V. Benevente (at extreme left in back row) who spent about 5 months last fall and winter with the University of Hawaii Agricultural Extension Service becoming familiar with modern farming techniques and the philosophy and aims of the 4-H Club movement.

Mr. Benevente is now working as agricultural adviser to Saipan farmers under the supervision of Frank L. Brown, director of the Saipan Agricultural Station (at extreme right in back row). In a letter recently received by H. H. Warner, agricultural extension director for Hawaii, Mr. Benevente describes some of his activities since he returned to Saipan.

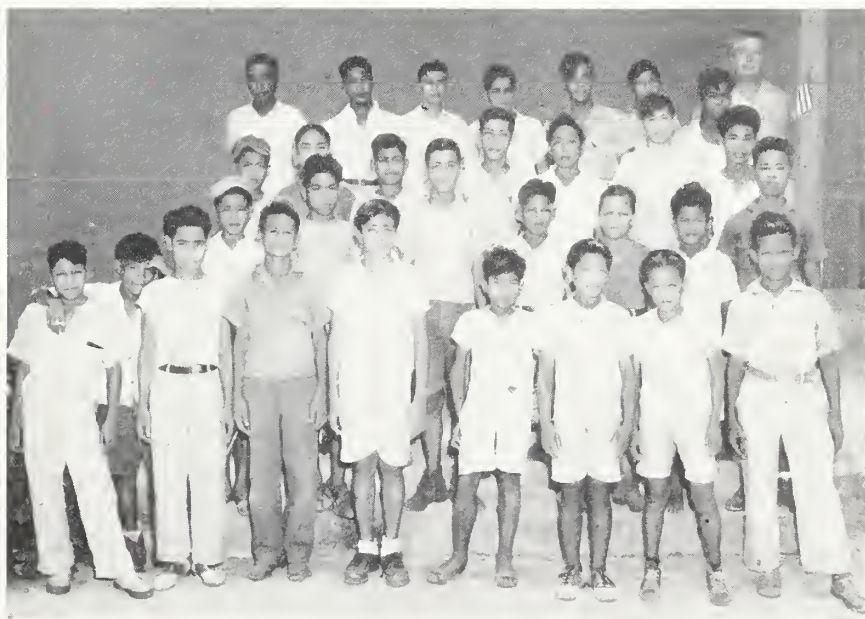
"I arrived here safely with the chickens, and they are still in healthy condition. I built a housing for them like those where they lived before, which is something new here.

"In February I organized a 4-H Club, with the permission of Mr. Brown. Fifty-five boys are members of the club. They are from grades

6, 7, and 8, in school, and are 13 to 15 years old.

"The main project is to beautify the schoolyard. Only six of the boys could get from their parents baby pigs to raise. Those who have native egg-

laying hens ready to brood obtain free some eggs from my Hawaiian hens to have them hatched. I am distributing some Solo Papaya seedlings to every club member to transplant around their homes. Those were from the seeds I acquired from Dr. Frazier. One plant fertilizing and two hog castrating demonstrations have been made so far."



SURVEYS

point the way

Francis E. Robinson, New Hampshire extension editor, describes some of the immediate values of a survey in addition to the statistics. E. J. Niederfrank, rural sociologist for the Federal Extension Service, who helped plan and direct the study, is now working on the statistical analysis, which will be available later.

■ Apparently, making surveys is fun after you've started it. At least that's what New Hampshire extension workers reported after 28 of them spent a week in asking questions of Hillsborough County, N. H., rural people.

At first sight, the survey forms they had to fill out looked a bit long; but in spite of this the staff seemed to agree pretty generally with the worker who wrote: "It was one of the most satisfactory experiences I have had in a long time."

Another agent went on to explain: "I felt the most valuable part of the survey was the fact that supervisors, specialists, county agents, home demonstration agents, and club agents were all working on one project. The feeling of good-fellowship was evident. Everybody worked hard and enjoyed it, for it was something shared, something of common interest. It was extremely valuable to meet and talk with . . . people . . . and to know how and where they live and work."

Many of the surveyors—experienced extension workers though they were—talked to people they never had encountered before in their work. The survey was designed to include samples of all groups in the survey areas, not just the groups New Hampshire extension workers know already. This was done deliberately; the New Hampshire Extension Service wants to use the survey results for the charting of new roads to greater service, to discover new needs if they exist, and to bring extension work out of a rut if it is found to be in one.

Tabulation and evaluation of the survey results have not yet been com-

pleted, but New Hampshire extension workers feel that the schedule-taking alone has helped them already. Here is how one of them expressed it:

"One of the biggest values of the survey was the experience gained by the agents that participated." This undoubtedly will stimulate extension agents to think more in terms of how effective their work really is and whether or not changes in methods would be helpful.

Final conclusions must be left until the answers have been analyzed, but the 28 extension employees who worked on the survey drew some conclusions for themselves during the questioning process. Of first interest to them, naturally, was the question of how well the Extension Service is accepted and understood by the general public. They were far from unanimous in their answers to that one.

Some of them agreed with the worker who said simply: "Folks believe in Extension." About an equal number of others felt that public acceptance and understanding were qualified. "Their understanding of extension work was rather hazy, but most of them knew something about it and were well acquainted with one or more branches," one agent decided.

But nearly half of all the reports of survey workers on this point expressed the feeling that acceptance and understanding were poor. One said: "We met with considerable indifference to the extension program." Others felt the fault was among extension workers themselves, saying: "We have done a poor job of selling Extension as such," and "We are not

making the fact clear that we are extension people."

Several discovered that many people they interviewed fail to understand that 4-H Club work is a part of the Extension Service.

But New Hampshire extension workers are not content merely with negative criticism. Their reports show that they have gone on to some positive thinking on what could and should be done to improve the work. Nearly every interviewer raised the issue of meetings versus farm and home visits. They found that the men interviewed generally wanted county agents to visit their farms more often, but the women generally did not want the home demonstration agent to visit the home—a home visit is, necessarily, a little personal to them.

They also found that several other methods were important in getting information on farming and home-making to rural people. "Most of the new ideas, according to those people contacted, were obtained in farm papers and magazines and from field men employed by the various grain companies," is a typical expression.

Having examined the situation, what do these New Hampshire extension agents suggest? As you might expect, they suggest many different things, according to their different temperaments and experiences. But some of the suggestions recur in several reports.

There are several suggestions for broadening the extension program. One worker points out, for example, that "where the majority of the population are merely rural residents or summer people there is little need . . . to conduct agricultural extension work, but there appears to be an opportunity to expand public policy discussions."

Another suggestion is that "the piecemeal approach to meeting farm and home problems is inadequate and these problems must be considered from the standpoint of the whole farm—business, family, and home."

Another agent suggests broadening the outlook still further: "Possibly the Extension Service should pay more attention to community problems than it has in the past and assist people to solve them with ideas and advice."

On the question of meetings versus farm visits, they suggest more visits and more smaller meetings. They suggest wider use of local leaders, but warn, "Extension agents should be very careful in the selection of leaders to make sure that those selected are those to whom others go for information."

And many of the agents agree that more emphasis should be placed on the use of farm magazines, circulars, daily papers, and radio as a means of doing an extension job of education.

Then, after making all these observations and suggestions, and more, New Hampshire extension agents topped off their recommendations with several strong ones for more in-service training.

And the things they want most to learn are the techniques of getting information to people. Only one worker asked for subject-matter training, whereas several asked for training in such techniques as writing for press, radio, and circular letters, and in public speaking.

After reading the workers' reports and hearing them talk about plans for the future based on experience gained in making the Hillsborough extension survey, we cannot help but believe that extension workers get a lot of help out of taking surveys, as well as out of the survey results. And maybe the results will mean more to 28 New Hampshire extension workers because they know how the answers were obtained.

■ FANNIN COUNTY, TEX., put on such a good rat-control program, treating 2,200 farms that the program is being continued on a permanent basis. The good work of the Texas Extension Service in fighting rats came to the attention of the State Health Department and the Governor of the State who asked that the good work be continued as one measure against the current polio epidemic.

■ PENNSYLVANIA bulletins recently went to Bangkok, Siam, at the request of the government. They wanted the same ones that are popular here, such as "Helping Your Baby Grow" and "Canning Fruits and Vegetables at Home."



"A good agent"

■ "I have it on good authority, as good as any this State can produce, that no single individual during the past 25 years has done more to develop good farming in Aroostook County, Maine, or to promote its general agriculture, than Verne Beverly." So said Horace A. Hildreth, Governor of Maine, at the event conducted by leading citizens of Aroostook County to celebrate Verne Beverly's twenty-fifth anniversary as county agent.

Other speakers included Dr. Arthur A. Hauck, president of the University of Maine; Arthur L. Deering, director of the Agricultural Extension Service, University of Maine; Dr. Russell Thackrey, secretary, Land Grant College Association; and Alton Perry, president, Central Aroostook Young Farmers' Association.

During the program local people presented Beverly with a purse of \$1,500 and an album containing letters of congratulation from more than 130 national and State agricultural leaders and friends. Mrs. Beverly was presented flowers and a check for \$150.

"Bev," as all his friends call him, became Aroostook County agent on July 1, 1923. He is a native of Calais, Maine, and a graduate of Bangor High School and the College of Agriculture at the University of Maine. At college Bev was an all-Maine end on the foot-

ball team. He taught vocational agriculture at Patten Academy and worked on several farms before going to Aroostook as county agent.

When Beverly went to Aroostook County, potato acreage per farm was small, judged by present-day standards. "Bev" has grown with the county. When he began work people did not place too much confidence in the county agent. But for many years farmers have said when anything is puzzling them, "Better ask Bev."

During his quarter of a century as county agent, Bev has become nationally known as an authority on the potato industry. He is a former president of the New England Association of County Agricultural Agents and is now serving on two committees of the national association. In 1941 he received an award for meritorious service in agriculture at the annual meeting of the National Association of County Agents.

High lights of his work in Aroostook include his campaign for "padded diggers" to reduce bruising of potatoes, which resulted in continuous elevator-type digger now in general use; his work in improving the quality of potatoes grown in the county to be sold in other States as certified seed; and his leadership in securing the adoption of improved methods of potato culture. He has also been active in the development of Young Farmers' Association in Aroostook County.

Director Deering in his tribute at the anniversary celebration to extension agents and especially to Beverly, said:

"He is a good agent who can continue to serve any county for 25 years. He is an exceptional man who can provide leadership through the lean years as well as through the prosperous ones, who can avoid the pitfalls and entanglements that all too often overtake the public servant, who can at the same time express his opinion honestly without fear or favor.

"These are the characteristics of a good extension agent. They are those possessed by Beverly, a man whose name is known not only here in Aroostook but throughout these United States wherever county agent work is mentioned. Such service is priceless to the people of a county and to the institution he represents."



Have you read

MALABAR FARM, a journal of an intelligent and observing farmer. Louis Bromfield. 405 pp. Harper & Bros., New York, N. Y., 1948. Illustrated by Kate Lord.

■ Two of the requirements of good rural-life literature are that it contain the flavor of the country and that it be written in words any person of average literacy can read with enjoyment and understanding. *Malabar Farm*, written by Louis Bromfield, a great author and also a great dirt farmer, meets both of these tests. It carries with it the added feature of many illustrations by Kate Lord, one of the Nation's outstanding artists of rural life.

Agricultural science, despite its tremendous progress, has barely crossed the threshold of the knowledge that man must ultimately have and be guided by in order to achieve a higher civilization. In cooperative extension work we have ample opportunity to behold the principle that an intelligent person will never find boredom on the farm. There are so many things to learn. Not a single law of science fails to have its application somewhere. To one with a mind sufficiently penetrating and alert to understand and relate what he feels and hears and sees on the land and under the rural sky, life on the farm becomes a continuous adventure.

It is Louis Bromfield's keen power of observation and his ability to choose words that adequately express what he hears, sees, and feels, and to do so in the light of mankind's present and future needs, that make *Malabar Farm* one of the most significant popularly written books on agriculture. Whether he writes about life processes in the farm pond, the habits of birds and wildlife, the growth of bacteria in the soil, or the air currents in midsummer thunderstorm, Mr. Bromfield displays a keen power of observation. Each chapter is related to the central theme of the book, namely that all life is born of a cycle consisting of birth, growth,

decay, and rebirth. The laws of good agriculture, the author says, are exact laws. They are the only laws that fit the new agriculture, in which there is no place for the farmer who says, "What was good enough for pappy is good enough for me."

The research world will hesitate to accept all Mr. Bromfield's claims with respect to the trace elements. Researchers must remember, however, that Mr. Bromfield merely records observations made in practice on his own land, which, after all, is something that should be done on every good farm. He leaves the door wide open for research to look into all the facts thoroughly and comprehensively.

Certainly there is some basis for Mr. Bromfield's theory that "In 1 cubic foot of living productive soil, we find a pattern of all the laws of the universe." I had barely finished reading *Malabar Farm* when I read a newspaper quotation of Dr. Selman A. Waksman, who in his work at the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station discovered the great antibiotic, streptomycin, one of many microorganisms that grow in soils. After surveying the field of antibiotics, Dr. Waksman was quoted as saying, "One is inclined to become optimistic and assert that before long all human and animal diseases, and possibly also plant diseases, will be combated if not completely eliminated." This observation by one of the world's leading microbiologists might support conclusions reached by Mr. Bromfield with respect to the health and vigor of plants and animals grown and reared on the completely balanced soil.

Malabar Farm was of particular interest to me because my father was born and lived until 18 years of age in northeastern Ohio, in a county adjoining the one in which *Malabar Farm* is situated. However, I recommend it to all who are interested in good agriculture, especially to extension workers, 4-H Club leaders and

members, and to the type of farm family we usually find cooperating in the programs of the Extension Service.—M. L. Wilson, Director of Cooperative Extension Work.

LAW ON THE FARM. H. W. Hannah. 399 pp. University of Illinois, Urbana. The Macmillan Company, New York. 1948.

■ *Law on the Farm* is essentially a handbook of useful information that the average citizen "knows a lot about", but "not much about."

The author presents in a clear and concise manner procedures that are necessary to the proper conduct of farming as a business. The discussions on "Contracts," "Farm Land and Real Estate," "Rights in Land," "Personal Property," "Landlord and Tenant," "Taxation and the Farmer," "Marketing," and "Local Government," should be read by every farmer and his son, including the "hired man." The legal information contained in the various sections of the book furnishes ready references on most farm topics and is indexed in such a manner that most solutions can be found in a short period of time. The bucolic vernacular used by the author is both enlightening and refreshing.

Representative samples of legal forms in common use in the farming areas, suggestions on related matters, such as the use of farm account books as an aid in computing income tax returns, proper types of insurance needed, hiring of farm help necessary to the successful operation of the farm, how to buy a farm, and a general discussion of the functions and duties of Federal, State, and local governments and officials round out a well-planned treatise of an interesting subject.

This book should be a ready reference for county extension agents, vocational agricultural teachers, students in agricultural economics, patrons of traveling rural libraries, farm appraisers, and others interested in making farming as a business, a prosperous and successful enterprise.

Take time about reading the essential parts of the book and you will be well-rewarded for your effort.—T. Weed Harvey, Agriculturist, Federal Extension Service.

Negro 4-H Camp

SHERMAN BRISCOE, Press Service, United States Department of Agriculture

■ Eighty-two rural Negro boys and girls, who have demonstrated outstanding achievements in 4-H Club work, halted their projects for a little over a week, August 24-31, and went as delegates to the first Regional 4-H Club Camp.

The camp was held at Southern University, the Louisiana Negro Land-Grant College, situated near Baton Rouge.

Director of Extension M. L. Wilson was the principal encampment speaker. He told the delegates that the Nation's 300,000 colored 4-H Club boys and girls should be proud of their fine record.

Reviewing their achievements, Director Wilson said that 103,000 of them grew gardens last year and 38,000 improved their homes. Also, he pointed out that they had raised 1,700,000 chickens, canned 3,000,000 quarts of food, and made 266,000 garments.

"I believe this camp will mean a great deal to the promotion of 4-H Club work among rural colored boys and girls," said the director. "It's going to mean that they will be vying in earnest for the encampment trip.

And most important of all, this competition should lead to increased farm production and better living for a greater number of colored farm families. And that's the real goal," Director Wilson concluded.

4-H Club leaders at the encampment picked up the theme, "Creating better homes today for a more responsible citizenship tomorrow." Said G. C. Cypress of Mississippi, "As a result of this camp, it's going to be easier than ever to attract rural boys and girls to 4-H Club work and to get them to carry out their projects."

Bessie Walton of Tennessee added, "These delegates are going to be telling their young friends back home about this camp. Next year it will be very difficult to select camp delegates, because every 4-H'er will be out to win this trip."

These statements were made while the camp group stood looking up at the 33-story Louisiana Capitol building in Baton Rouge.

On another day, as the club boys and girls pressed against sturdy rail of a ferry boat, watching furrows of water pile up behind the craft as it crossed the Mississippi, 4-H Leader

Wayman Johnson of South Carolina turned to me and said, "There's never been anything like it. These youngsters are having the time of their lives. I wish all the 4-H'ers could be here."

This boat ride, like the sightseeing trip to New Orleans, to the experiment station, and to an oil refinery near Baton Rouge, was a highlight of the 8-day camp.

Most of the delegates had never seen the Father of Waters. Off starboard they saw the muddy river rolling on to the Gulf of Mexico, carrying with it valuable top soil from thousands of unprotected farms.

T. M. Campbell, camp director, pointed out that more terraces and cover crops would clear up the great cloudy stream.

On the closing night of the camp, as one clubber lighted his candle from another's in a solemn candle-lighting ceremony, 4-H Leader Marshall Brown of Texas said that it was symbolic of the spread of information about improved farming practice. "When these boys and girls get back home, the 4-H program will have a shining candle in 82 communities throughout the rural South."

The candle-lighting ceremony climaxed one of the most interesting weeks any boy or girl could have.

The 4-H'ers had seen an air demonstration by a detachment of colored flyers from the Lockbourne Air Base in Columbus, Ohio, and they had seen and met several celebrities, including Frankie "Sugar-Chile" Robinson, the child prodigy who was the feature attraction of their talent night program; David W. Kellum (Bud Billiken of the Chicago Defender); Dr. Marshall L. Shepherd, recorder of deeds of the District of Columbia; Patsy Graves of the Farmers Home Administration, Dr. Roscoe C. Brown of the United States Public Health Service, and Dr. F. G. Clark, President of Southern University.

Most of all during the encampment, the 4-H'ers had an opportunity to discuss their own and other vital problems and reach their own conclusions.

For this 8-day period they weren't growing cotton and corn or peanuts and tobacco or raising calves for a Fat Stock Show. They were growing a much more important crop—tomorrow's men and women.

Director of Extension M. L. Wilson, second from right, is shown with a group of 4-H delegates at the First Regional 4-H Club Camp, August 24-31, Southern University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Left to right are: Clayton Marcus of Georgia, Permelia Powell of Missouri; Earl Harrison of Texas; Bonita Jones of Maryland; Milton J. L. Spright of Tennessee; Webster Brooks, Jr. of Louisiana; Dr. F. G. Clark, President of Southern; Director Wilson; and Robbie Mae Black of Kentucky.





Flashes FROM SCIENCE FRONTIERS

A few hints of what's in the offing as a result of scientific research in the U. S. Department of Agriculture that may be of interest to extension workers, as seen by Marion Julia Drown, Agricultural Research Administration, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Feeding Colostrum Milk to Older Calves Saves Marketable Milk

■ To supply the new-born calf with the special nourishment it needs during the first 3 days of a calf's life its mother's milk is extra rich in certain nutrients. This substance is so different from the later milk that it is known by a special name—"colostrum." A cow may have more of this colostrum milk than the calf can take each day. The surplus has to be milked off and is usually wasted, because it is not marketable and older calves were thought to be unable to digest it.

Recent experiments by the Bureau of Dairy Industry show, however, that colostrum can be fed to older calves safely by diluting it with warm water in the proportion of two parts milk and one part water. The diluted colostrum was fed to a group of calves for the first 60 days along with grain and hay. Colostrum is highly concentrated and provides more nutrients, pound for pound, than whole milk. It is much richer in vitamin A, so it was no surprise when the colostrum-fed calves were found to have stored more vitamin A in their bodies during the 60 days than calves fed whole milk for this period. The calves fed colostrum and water showed no difference in average weight and no greater evidence of scours than the others.

Dairy researchers recommend that colostrum be used as it is produced. It can be stored for later feeding if it is kept cold and stored under sanitary conditions, but few farmers have adequate facilities for keeping it.

Complete utilization of this valuable feed will save whole milk for the market. It is recommended as good practice to apportion each day's supply of colostrum among all calves in the herd, feeding the diluted colostrum in place of an equal amount of whole milk.

X and Double X

■ Within the last 2 years reports of a strange disease of cattle have been received in increasing numbers by the Bureau of Animal Industry. The malady is known by several names, including "X disease," "double X disease," and "hyperkeratosis." It has caused serious losses already in at least 26 States.

Symptoms are first a watery discharge from the eyes and nose, followed by loss of appetite and condition and a breaking out on the surface of the tongue, cheeks, and palate. There is a progressive thickening of the skin, and diarrhea in the late stages. The course of the disease is several weeks to 3 months. Mortality has been reported from some areas as about 4 to 8 percent, and the production of animals that survive is greatly lowered.

Present indications are that the disease is not an infection but may result from substances in forage or in the soil. Thus far attempts to transmit the disease experimentally have been unsuccessful, as have also numerous drug treatments.

A conference of State and Federal livestock officials in Washington planned a survey to obtain possible leads for an attack on the disease through research. In late August a meeting to plan field observations in Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee, and Virginia was held at Auburn, Ala., where representatives of the ARA Bureaus of Animal Industry, Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry, and Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering met with State research and disease-control officials. The group making the survey comprises specialists in various fields of science, who hope to find the most promising clues to the problem. The survey will last several weeks.

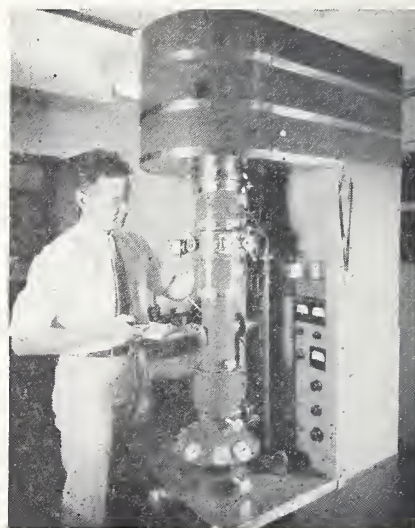
A New Tool for Science

■ An object that still looks small when it is magnified 50 million times, must be invisible, to say the least, so far as the naked eye is concerned. This magnification is 200 times that attained by even the strongest ordinary microscope. It is done with the electron microscope, the remarkable instrument shown here.

The Eastern Regional Research Laboratory is the proud possessor of this electron microscope, and good use is being made of it here. For example, the scientists use it to measure certain elusive properties of starch molecules, and, in another project, the instrument helps them to study changes in the structure of leather during tanning.

The Electron Microscope

From the compartment at the top, a stream of electrons is shot down through the vertical tube to illuminate the objects, usually minute particles, under study. Magnetic lenses focus the electrons on a viewing screen. The pairs of discs at the lower end of the tube cover openings through which observers can see the screen. Through the little door on the near side of the tube the specimen for examination is inserted. Operations within the microscope are carried out in a high vacuum, and the room is darkened when observers are at the peepholes. Photographs can be made of any phase of the image that has special importance.



Homemakers contribute to research

■ Tasting was a treat to Connecticut homemakers who attended Farm and Home Week and offered them an opportunity to contribute to the research which is being done by the School of Home Economics at the University of Connecticut.

During Farm and Home Week an exhibit of frozen blueberries was set up in the home economics building, and housewives were invited to sample the berries and give the researchers their opinions of the various products.

The experiment, which Dr. Mary Greenwood and Dr. Martha Potgieter, both professors of foods and nutrition, and their assistants, Catherine Cowell and Margaret Gates, are conducting, involves blanching, types of sweetening, and varieties of blueberries which are most suitable for

freezing. The berries were obtained from the department of horticulture at the university.

Farm and Home Week came at the height of the blueberry season and offered an excellent opportunity for the researchers to gain considerable information on consumer preference for berries treated in different ways. Through the cooperation of the Extension Service the display was arranged.

Those who sampled the berries were asked to rate them from one to six in the order of preference. The ratings were later changed to scores for each product. Comments were invited.

One hundred and twenty-four score cards were completely filled out and could be used for scoring. A lesser number of cards were returned with

a first preference and a last preference indicated. These were kept but not used in compiling statistics. About six people came back each day to repeat the test.

The rating card was a simple mimeograph sheet divided into six parts, with directions for rating given at the bottom and a space at the top for the date and the taster's name. A separate table held the pencils, spoons, dishes, and score cards.

The most noticeable result of the invited comments was that the women, and some men and girls, were more concerned with the flavor of the product than they were in its appearance. They considered texture as second in importance.

Throughout the test someone was there to explain it to the women. In this way the researchers were able to get better acquainted with the women in the State, and the women were able to see what their State university was doing in research and to contribute valuable information to the project.

Reflections in the mirror

(Continued from page 84)

and other pertinent data. After seeing this analysis, the district agents asked for a conference with the agents in each of the counties. They saw that this type of information could be helpful in determining the matter of balance between the use of extension methods, such as visits or meetings, as well as the balance between time and effort by lines of work.

Analyzed with Agents

Visits to the counties confirmed that the agents were as enthusiastic and receptive as the district agents to the use and value of the reports. Many agents said they had never before realized the value of reports or how to use them. Some said it was the most helpful conference they ever had and that they wished something of this nature had been done 15 or 20 years ago.

* Perhaps this is partially explained by the fact that only a means had been provided. But now the agents

made their own analysis from what they saw and knew. It was a picture of what they said they had done and how they did it as compared with what they thought they should have done. Here are a few facts:

(a) In some counties an average of 10 to 15 visits had been reported to all 4-H Club members, with a certain type of project, whereas no visits were reported to the other 150 club members who were carrying a different project. In these cases the agents were the first to recognize their shortcomings and to suggest ways and means of overcoming them.

(b) In other counties the lack of balance between the use of extension methods was quite evident. In many instances the analysis showed that more adults had been contacted by visits than through meetings. This indicated a lot of personal service rather than a well-planned, constructive program.

(c) Many counties reported a large

number of adult result demonstrations but had held few or no meetings at them and apparently were making little use of the demonstrations in their extension teaching. It appeared that these particular agents had little conception of what constituted a result demonstration.

(d) Another observation was that in some counties the agents were failing to capitalize on the real interests of farm people as reflected in the number of office calls and information desired.

These examples illustrate the kind of picture we were looking for in the beginning, but it should be remembered that many changes had to take place before this picture could be developed. These included not only a new report form but, more important, new attitudes and understandings of reports at both the State and county levels.

At the request of the home demonstration agents a similar study was made of their report form, and as a result a new form emerged that became effective in April 1948.

Among Ourselves



■ **MIRIAM BIRDSEYE**, extension specialist for the Federal Extension Service for nearly 29 years, died at Carmel, Calif., on August 28. Miss Birdseye began extension work with the Department in 1917, coming from the staff of Cornell University where she had been the first full-time home economics extension worker. She was also the first Federal appointee to serve in this capacity and for many years the only one.

Among her most noteworthy contributions to extension work were her development of interest in food habits as a means toward good health, an adequate supply of essential foods for the farm family, hot school lunches, especially for rural children, and the development of the health phases of 4-H Club programs. Miss Birdseye especially emphasized the importance of good eating habits, health habits, and sanitation to promote the normal growth of healthy children.

Miss Birdseye's work while at Cornell laid excellent foundations for the emergency home demonstration programs that played an important part of New York women's work during the First World War. Emergencies of de-

pression, drought, and floods gave her opportunities for special service, and throughout World War II, she carried much responsibility as a member of numerous national committees and groups concerned with the food problems occasioned by the war.

Miss Birdseye attended Packer Institute, Brooklyn; Smith College, where she received her B. A. degree; Pratt Institute; and Columbia University, where she received her M. A. in 1923. She was a member of the Zonta Club, American Home Economics Association, American Dietetics Association, and American Association of University Women. After her retirement, she took an active part in Smith College alumni work.

She was the author of numerous bulletins and leaflets on nutrition subjects. In recent years she had been interested in the growing and use of herbs as a means of adding attractiveness to diets. She collaborated with M. S. Lowman of the Department of Agriculture in the preparation of *Farmers' Bulletin 1977, Savory Herbs, Their Culture and Use*. She developed a successful garden at her home, Afterglow, Carmel, Calif.,

and was very active in garden, nutrition, and other community activities there. She retired from active extension service in 1946 and had lived at Carmel since then.

■ **EDWARD INGRAM OSWALD**, Assistant Director of the University of Maryland Extension Service, died on August 21. Since Maryland is a neighbor to the United States Department of Agriculture, the Federal Extension Service often turns to Maryland for picture possibilities, radio speakers, or typical agents and 4-H Club members. Mr. Oswald was always a courteous and a friendly neighbor. Nothing was too much for him to do. He will be missed by many of the Washington staff as well as by his coworkers in Maryland.

He was born near Chewsville, Md., and graduated from the Maryland Agricultural College in the same class and was a roommate of the late Reuben Brigham. Their friendship grew through the years.

After graduation he farmed on the home farm for a number of years, coming to the Extension Service in 1918 as county agent in Worcester County. After 9 years there he went to College Park as State leader of county agents, a position he held until 1937, when he was appointed assistant director of the Maryland Extension Service.

■ **WILLIAM F. JOHNSTONE**, war veteran and recently a farm paper editor, has taken up his duties as extension agricultural economist in Pennsylvania. Son of an extension agronomist at the University of Kentucky, he graduated from the University of Kentucky, receiving his master's degree in agricultural economics last February from the University of Illinois. Excerpts from his column "Handy Devices" for the farm and home appearing in the *Progressive Farmer*, have recently appeared in book form.

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